THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

Deacon & Peterson, Publishers.

NUMBER SIXTY-SIX SOUTH THIRD ST.

Two Dollars Per Annum, In Advance.

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VOLUME XXXI. PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1851. WHOLE NO. 1571.

Choice Poetry.

THE HOME-GOING.

BY G. G. BURLEIGH.

Ah, why should bitter tears be shed,
In sorrow o'er the wounded soul,
When, verily, there need no dread,
Of all the children of our God!

They who are true to every trust,
Have but flung off their robes of clay,
And clothed in heavenly radiance,
Attend us on our lowly way;

And all their spirits breathe to calm
The hope, and strength, and love of theirs,
Which blesse, as blooms the early flowers
In beauty of Summer's warmest airs;

And silent Aspirations start
In promptings of their purer thought,
Which gently lead the troubled heart
To joys not even Hope had sought.

While sorrow's tears our eyes have wet,
Shed o'er the consecrated dust,
The earth our darkened souls forget
The lessons of enduring trust.

Not then we heed the hallowed joy
Their presence would inspire in us,
If'd time or fate cannot destroy,
Or even Death make only thus

Not then we mark the cheering light
Of their serene and love lit eyes,
Which look out from the Infinite
Like stars from pure unbounded skies.

Though sorrow brings her hidden Good,
And tears their dewy benison,
Not always o'er the spirit should
Their darkness overcast the sun.

The rain whose blood-like drops have wet
The sweetest flower of blushing dyeing;
If through its cloud no sunlight burst,
Would blight her loveliest blossoming.

Tis well the heart can loose its tide,
And gently pour the soothing tear,
When joyful Hope is crucified
In death-pangs of the loved and dear;

But when from her sepulchral prin'n
Their Angels roll the grief away,
Then yield we to the new spirit's
And own her everlasting sway;

With spirit-glance undimmed by tears
Look upward and forget the cloud,
For brighter than yon million spheres
They wheel around the throne of God;

And echoes from their choral song
Come quivering down the blue expanse,
Like murmurs from the heart throng
That on the beams of sunset dance.

Let those who not necessarily
Our sunlight on our pathway dim,
And Death can have no terrors more,
But holy Joy shall walk with him.

Pictures of Life.

A SYLVAN MORALITY:
OR, A WORD TO WIVES.

"These summer winds
Have borne me in my days of idle pleasure:
I do discard them."

"And Benedict, love on; I will requite thee,
Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand."

At the age of seventeen, Emily S—— "came out," gilt and lettered, from the Minerva Press of a fashionable boarding-school, and was, two years afterwards, bound (in white satin) as a bride. In the short period intervening between these two important epochs, she had had a prodigious run of admiration. Records had been penned on her pencilled brow, and the leaves of studied beauties had contracted at the homage paid to hers. All this Emily had liked well enough—perhaps a little better than she ought; but where was the wonder? for, Nature's cestus, general (such as early youth and early training) having left the world and the world's vanities, she had an innate love of her own, in the fact that she had nothing else to love—no mother, no sister, no home—no home, at least, in its largest and loving sense. She was the orphan but not wealthy ward of a fashionable aunt, in whom the selfish regrets of age had entirely frozen the few sympathies left open by the selfish enjoyments of youth.

When Emily married, and for a few months previous, it was of course to be presumed that she had formed a tender attachment for the world, whereon to fix the affections of her warm young heart. At all events she had found a somebody to love for, and one who was worthy to be loved in return. Indeed, a better fellow than our friend F——, does not live; but, though fairly good-looking, and the perfect gentleman, he was not, perhaps, exactly the *description* of gentleman to excite the rapid growth of romantic attachment in the bosom of an admired girl of nineteen.

Why did she marry him? Simply because amongst her admirers she liked nobody better, and because her aunt, who was anxious to be relieved of her charge, liked nobody so well;—not because he had much to offer, but because it was little he required.

Soon after their marriage the happy pair set out for Paris. F——, though his means were slender, and tastes retired, made every effort (as far as bridegroom could so find it) to gratify his lively young wife by a stay at the capital of pleasure. After a subsequent excursion, they returned within a year to England, and settled at a pretty cottage in Berkshire, to which we speedily received a cordial invitation. It was so long readily accepted, for we were anxious to behold the "rural felicity," of which we little doubt that our friends were in full possession.

The result, however, of a week's sojourn at their quiet abode, was the reluctant opinion that, contrary to the usual course of the marriage annals of the young couple did not sit quite easy; though to point out the defect in their mates, or to discover whom they gloried, were matters on which it required some time to form a decided judgment. One thing, however, was pretty obvious. With her unsteady fate, Emily had not assumed an atom of that contentment—not and, but *active* —which becomes her new estate; nor did she, as we shrewdly suspected, pay quite so much attention to the cares of the little menage as was considered incumbent by the limited conception of her husband's fracas. She seemed, in short, to the inner thoughtless, pleasure-loving, pleasure-seeking girl as ever; now she was captured, the same volatile butterfly as when surrounded and chased by butterflies like herself.

But her captor! asks some modern Penelope—had he not, or could he not be creative to clip her pinions?

Poor F——! not he! he would have feared to "break the chief" from off them; and, from something of this over-tenderness, had been dealing with the honeyed pleasures of the French Capital, these tastes (without them) might have been moulded already to the more pure and simple sensibilities of a retired English neighborhood. He was only trying the experiment which should have been made a year ago, and that with a reluctant and embodied hand.

Poor Emily! her love of pageby had true, it is true, but little scope for its display; but it was still strongly apparent, to the regretting regret of her husband, in the fondness for dress, and the vapourous delight with which she greeted certain occasional breaks in the monotony of a country life. An approaching dinner party would raise her lids of spirits, and a distant ball or two meeting notice from small into a fixed. One or two such occasions we limited that F——, though every claim, looked grave—grave enough to have been set down as an unreasonable fellow; if not by every one, at least by that complex "everybody," who declared that his wife was "one of the prettiest and sweetest little women in the world," and, as everybody must be right, so of course it was.

Merely, indeed, had our gentle Benedict beheld the face of his "Young May Moon," sensibly clouded; but then it had always been his care to chase away from it every passing, or even approaching shade; and he would accordingly have fled, in return, that its very brightest rays should have shone on him alone, instead of resting, (as duty, as it were, collected from what he felt upon, methinks, their very laboriousness.

It dissolved in an instant the half-formed ice of her husband's manner. By mutual consent the subject of the fancy ball seemed left in abeyance, and while, in every circle, for miles round, it formed the central topic, in ours it was the theme forbid. Thence we tried to infer that it was a matter abandoned, and that Emily's better judgment, if not her good feeling, had decided her to give up her own liking, on this the very first occasion on which, we believe, her husband had ever thwarted it.

Well—whether, as with us, awaited in silence, or, as with the many, harbingered by the music of the many voices—the grand event marched on its day: the only wanted of its expected arrival, when Isadora called F—— up to London, from whence he was not to return till late at night. Soon after his departure, which followed an early breakfast, we left Emily, as we supposed, to the business of her little household, and repaired, as was our wont, to the library, a small apartment which our friend F—— had made the very bijou of his pretty cottage.

It was tastefully fitted up in the gothic style, with a window of painted glass—a window, by the way, especially suited to a book room, not merely as pleasing to the eye, but for a convenience which has often struck us. The many colored panes through which the light of day finds entrance, form no unfitting symbol of a library contents, whereby the light of intelligence is poured upon the mind, through as many varied mediums, from the deep, cold, black and blue of the learned and scientific lore, to the glowing tints of the heart and crimson of romance. Having taken down a choice copy of the Fairy Queen, we committed our person to an ebony arm chair, and our spirit to the magic guidance of our author's fancy. Obedient to its leading, we were careering somewhat betwixt earth and heaven, when a slight noise brought us down for a moment to our proper sphere; yet hardly,—for on looking up, we beheld, standing in the wake of a colored sunbeam, from which, on wings of gossamer, she seemed to have just descended, in unexpected apparition of surpassing grace and loveliness, Titania's self, just stepped upon the monolit earth, could scarcely have stood poised on an unbroken flower stalk, to from more airy, in attitude more graceful, with countenance more radiant than those of Emily F——, as arrayed in likeness of the Fairy Queen, she thus burst upon our view, and with an air half archly playful, half proudly triumphant, enjoyed our bewildered surprise, and received the involuntary homage of our admiration.

We say, in a moment how the matter stood; Emily was really going to the fancy ball; and that, of the Queen of Fays, was the fantastic and too bewitching costume she had chosen to assume. Knowing her kind heart, and having believed that its affections had been gained by her estimable husband, if not bestowed on him at first, we were vexed and disappointed in our young relative, and felt it only right to give, if we could, a check to her buoyant vanity, by letting her feel the weight of our disapproval—shown if not expressed.

"So I see, Emily," said I, in the coldest tone, "I see, after all, that you are going to this foolish ball."

The beaming countenance of the beautiful sylph darkened in a moment, like a cosmetic landscape.

"And why not?" returned she, pettishly; "I suppose, then, you don't approve?"

"My approbation can be of very little import, if you possess that of your own heart and that of your husband. Under what character, pray, does he intend you? I suppose he plays Oberon to your Titania?"

Emily's face reddened. Some strong emotion heaved her bosom, and I saw that pride alone kept the starting tears from overflowing.

"Charles," said she, with an attempt at carelessness and indifference, "will not be there at all. I am to go with Lady Forrester."

We felt them wound them over, and wished to say something which our pride might hinder the young wife's intention; but nothing occurring to us at the moment, we remained silent. Indeed, our age and slight relationship gave a sufficient right to any anything, we looked down for a moment on our still open book. Of that moment Emily availed herself to offend her escape, and on raising our eyes, we only caught a glimpse of her glittering wings as she glided through the doorway. Our first impulse was to recall her; our next thought to leave her to herself. If her better nature still existed, the consequences of a moment's unkindness, might only serve to act wounded pride against it; and wounded pastions, like wounded horses, fight most desperately. We saw no more of our young hostess till the hour of dinner, to which we sat down *tete-a-tete*. Emily's recent fires had regained its usual expression of good humor, and by almost an unseen of attention, and an effort of more than ordinary brilliancy, she strove to make amends for the slight abolitions of temper stirred up by the morning's incident; but her amiability seemed forced, and we felt that our own was much of the same description.

Our after-dinner sitting was soon ended by an evening stroll. It had been a sultry day toward the end of August; the hay sulphys had been all astray about sensible; so, with a view to meet the first of them which should happen to be stirring, we directed our steps towards a high-open breath or common. He entered was soon met by a magnificent breath, towards which we slowly ascended, under a shower of darts levelled by the declining sun; and, on arriving at the top, were right glad to seat ourselves on the circular bench which surrounded its smooth and bushy bole.

Here, in addition to the welcome boons of rest and shade, we were presented gratis with the exhibition of a finer panorama than the Messrs. Barker ever yet produced.

What a means of tranquil splendor lay before us! one of those glowing pictures of the declining day and declining year, wherein like a pair of dying painters, they seem to have combined their utmost skill and richest colors, in order to exceed, in a last effort, all the productions of their meridian prime.

After a few moments of silent admiration, we were on the point of entering to our young companion—"Oh, who could prefer the most brilliant ball-room to a scene like this?" but we checked the impulse; for, perhaps, thought we the "still small voice," which speaks from all around us, is even now whispering to her heart. But never, we believe, was adder more deaf to the accents of the "charmer," than was Emily at that moment to those of nature. Her mind, we are pretty sure, was still roaming, all the faster as she approached it, on that fancy ball. Perhaps she carpented that ours was following the the same turn, and knowing of our old habit of making observations upon insects, she, by a little womanly artifice, wrifted herself of it to divert their course. Pointing with her parasol to a long procession of brown ants, which were crossing the foot-cross soon beneath the tree,

"Look," said she, "I suppose they are going home to bed."

"Or perhaps to a ball," rejoinest we, quite unable to resist the pleasure of taking our fair cousin in her own *rose*, "but let us follow them and see."

Emily was delighted at having, as she thought, so ingeniously set us on her hobby, and attended to the spot whither we had traced the little laborers. Their palpitous settlement bore no appearance of evening repose. Other trains were approaching in various directions, to meet that which we had followed; and a multitude was covering the central surface of the not-hills, as if taking a farewell bask in the glowing sunset. Amidst the exaggerated noisy, and clamor, guished from the common herd by very superior bulk and four resplendent wings, were several individual ants, which Emily (as well she might) mistook for flies, and was, accordingly, there *entrance* to a most magnificent society.

"They are not flies," said we, "but ants themselves—female ants—though with somewhat of the air, certainly, of being in *masquerade* or *fancy costume*. But, say what we will of their attire, we must needs confess that they are in their proper places; for they are the *matrons* of the community, and, as we see, they are at *home*."

Our young companion made no reply; but, stooping down, seemed wholly engrossed by the examination of the not-hill.

"Look," exclaimed she, presently, "here is one of those pesky dames without any wings at all. I suppose some of her neighbors have taken up a spite against her, and committed to strip her of her glittering appendages."

"By no means," we answered, "*she has laid them aside by her own voluntary act.* Only one, my dear Emily, here is one of her sisters, even now employed in the business of disrobing."

We both stooped, and watched narrowly the curious operation to which we had directed our young friend's attention. One of the larger insects in question was actively employed in agitating her wings, bringing them before her head, crossing them in every direction, throwing them from side to side, and producing so many staggering contortions as to cause them all four to fall off at the same moment, leaving her reduced to the same condition as her wingless sister. Fatigued, apparently, by her late efforts, she reposed awhile, after the accomplishment of her purpose, brushed her denuded corselet with her feet, and then proceeded to burrow in the soft earth of the hillock, was speedily lost to our observation.

"How very odd!" said Emily; "what can possibly be the meaning of such a strange, unnatural proceeding?"

"I will tell you," replied we, "that which has been thought fully to explain its intention. This insect female, in common with her sisters, has hitherto been privileged to lead a life of entire indolence and pleasure. A few days since, having risen from her lowly birth-place on those discarded pinions, we might have seen her disporting in the air with some gay and gallant companions, of inferior size, but winged like herself. But now her career of pleasure, though not of happiness, being at an end, her life of confinement is about to begin, and, in character of a matron, she is called to the performance of such domestic duties as will henceforth confine her to the precincts of her home.

Of what use now, therefore, are the glittering wings which adorned and became her in her earlier youth? Their possession might only, perchance, have tempted her to discard the post which Nature, under Divine guidance, has instructed her to fill. Obedient to its teaching, she has thus despoiled herself of the showy plume which (essential to her enjoyment in the fields of air) would only have encumbered her in the narrower but more important sphere of home.

Emily listened in silence to our lecture on Entomology, which must have been delivered, we supposed, with peculiar clearness, as she did not, according to her usual custom, foliate it up by any further inquiry or comment. We soon after bid adieu to the insect community, and wended our way homewards.

F—— returned from London the same evening; but availing ourselves of an old friend's freedom, we had retired to bed before his arrival.

Next morning ushered in the day, "the great, the important day," of the fancy ball—either to beauty" or "to shreds"—yet greatly did we fear that the piteous condition which greeted our opening eyes would be met with no answering beams at the breakfast table of our friends.

How agreeably, therefore, were we surprised, when, on entering the parlor, we at once perceived an expression of more perfect serenity, on the countenance of both F—— and his pretty wife, than had been worn by either since the day of that confounded invitation.

"Ah!" thought we, "it's pretty plain how the matter is ended; that wicked little fairy has wrought her charms for nothing—has carried her point—and will carry sue, her willing captive, to the ball. What poor weak fools these husbands are! Thank heaven that——. Well! perhaps better so than worse."

Breakfast proceeded; chat in plenty; but not a syllable about the fancy ball; till hesitating to know how the case, so long pending, had really ended, we ventured on a prying query—"At what hour, Emily," said we, "does Lady Forrester come to take you to the ball?"

"I have written to prevent her calling."

"Oh, then, you are going under other——and up and we looked slyly at F——.

"I am not going at all," said Emily.

Here she put in sure her little white hand, and looked up archly in our face—"*I am not going, for I have held aside my wings!*"

"My good fellow!" said F——, as he took our other hand; "you deserve to be made President of the Entomological Society."

NOTE.

That remarkable procedure of the matron ant, wherein the preceding narrative is founded, is a well authenticated fact. The circumstances attending it were partially noticed by Gould, the historian of English ants, Linnæus, and De Geer; and observed and related with greater accuracy by Huber, part of whose interesting account we shall combine with a few introductory remarks by a living naturalist, whose own testimony is given to its veracity.

"It was supposed by the ancients that all ants, at a certain age, acquired wings; but it was reserved for recent naturalists to ascertain that it is only the males and females that are ever winged, and that the latter lose them after pairing in the air, as they have no longer any use for them."

The younger Huber, by means of his artificial formicaries, traced the development of the wings in the female from their first commencement till he saw them stripped off by themselves, and laid aside like cast-off clothes.

One day visited some ant-hills which he knew to be filled with winged inhabitants, whose departure could not be far distant. "Hardly," says he, "had I reached the spot, when I saw several, both males and females, pass over my head, while at the ant-hill I observed others take flight, the males always preceding. Of these I took eight pairs, and placed them in a box to observe them on my return home; but a violent shower which came on at this moment, allowed me a slight glance at it was unexpected. As soon as the rain was over, I saw the earth strewed with females without wings. They were most likely the very ones that I had seen in the air.

On my return home, I placed my eight prisoners with some moist earth in a garden pot covered with glass. It was nine o'clock in the evening; at ten the females had lost their wings, which I observed scattered here and there, and were hiding themselves under the earth."

Three of the insects placed in a box, without any earth at the bottom, did not, on this account, deprive themselves of their wings; but another, furnished with a light earthen bed, no sooner perceived it, than "*she extended her wings with those effect, brought them before her head, crossed them in all directions, threw them from side to side,* and produced so many singular contortions, that all four wings fell off at the same moment. After this change she reposed, brushed her corselet with her feet, then traversed the ground, appearing to seek a place of shelter; the portrait of the honey I gave her, and at last found a hiding place under some loose earth that formed a little natural grotto." Huber repeated, and describes minutely the like experiments on several females of different species, and always with the same results.

Gould (writing about 1747, and calling the winged females "*large* ant flies," the males *small* ones,) says—"If you place a number (of the former) in a box, the wings of many of them will, after some time, gradually fall off like autumnal leaves." He also observes that "a large ant-fly (contrary to other insects) gains by the loss of her wings, is afterwards promoted to a throne, and drops those external ornaments as emblems of her much envied liberty for a sovereign." But as female ants hold little of the state and none of the authority of queens, he would have spoken more correctly, more properly as to consequence, had they been unfriendly, one of which is the construction of chambers in the earth. July and August is their usual season for dancing.—*Rejandre of Insect Life.*

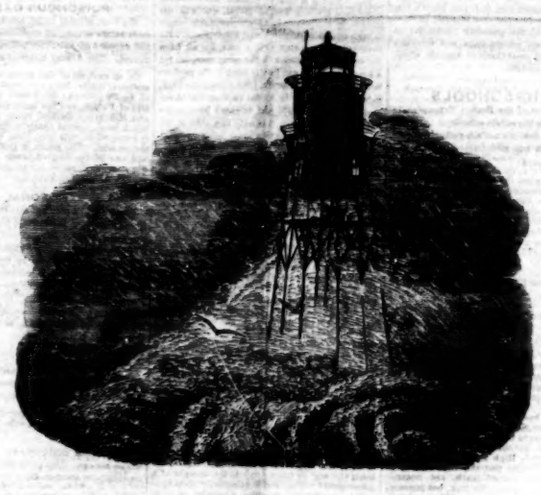
THE TRUE GENTLEMAN.—The distinguished Governor Morris, of Morrisiana, near the city of New York, who was a gentleman, by birth, education, and the most lofty bearing, on being asked for his definition of a gentleman, replied, in the words of the Psalmist:—

"He in whose every thought and deed
By rule of virtue moves;
Whose generous tongue disdains to speak
The thing he never disproves.
Who never did a slander forge,
His neighbor's fame to wound;
Nor hearken to a false report
By malice whispered round.
Who vice in all its pomp and power
Can treat with just neglect;
And piety, though clothed in rags,
Religiously respect.
Who to his *plighted vow* and trust
Has ever firmly stood;
And, *though he promise to his loss*,
He makes his promise good.
Whose soul in usury disdains
His treasure to employ;
Whom no reward can ever bribe
The guiltless to destroy."

This poetic was copied by Thomas Jefferson, in the smallest hand and neatest manner, in his commonplace book.

☞ An nightingales love seem to sing more on calm, or does the heart speak loudest near bosom of music.

Our Picture Gallery.



LIGHT-HOUSE AT MINOT'S LEDGE,

DESTROYED IN THE GREAT GALE, APRIL 15, 1851.

At the time of the destruction of the above light-house, we had the above engraving prepared for our readers—the original of which appeared in a Boston paper. Some months have elapsed since then, but the subject is one which will ever have an interest.

The strength of the light-house had been frequently called in question. Only a few weeks previous to its destruction, the public mind was so much excited in relation to the safety of this structure, that the engineer under [illegible] was induced to make a thorough examination of the light-house, and its foundations, to ascertain its stability. The examination, demonstrated, to scientific principles, that the building was perfectly safe! The examination contained a most unpreserves more at the times which had been expressed by the keeper.

A few days after the great gale in March last, says an exchange, we conversed with a young man, who gave us an account of the fearful and appalling scenes which he passed during the four or five days which the storm lasted. We remarked to him that probably it would be difficult to find room to keep the light if Mr. Bennett should leave it. "Yes, sir," said the brave fellow, "I shall stay as long as Mr. Bennett does, and when we leave the light it will be dangerous for any others to take it." Poor fellow! He left not his post, but nobly died doing his duty. When we saw him last, he thought the worst of the season was over, and that he should be able to retain his post, at least through another Summer. But he was not without his misgivings. In case his worst fears were realized, he hoped, with some degree of confidence, that he should be able to reach the shore. We concluded him of the probabilities against such an escape, but he assured us that he should stand by the light as long as the light itself stood.

The last time the light was seen was about eight o'clock in the evening.

The following is a description of the above structure, which appeared in an Eastern print last Fall, written by a gentleman who visited it in August, 1850:

Our steamer anchored within half a mile of the ledge rock, and the surf-boat started with our party to visit the light-house. It was the intention of the whole party to go up to the lantern, but when we came to the iron posts, and encountered the waves which broke over the rock, it was found that but one-third of the boat-load only would venture to ascend. It took about five minutes for one person to take advantage of the receding waves so as to be able to get upon the iron by which alone the structure could be reached. The surf-boat returned to the steamer for the load left on the rock, but the account of those who dared not land was such as to deter many from making the attempt. We stepped from the boat upon wrought iron cross-bars, placed at right angles upon one of the iron shafts, upon which the structure was placed. It was almost like ascending a dog staff. The most difficulty was experienced in passing that portion of the iron shaft where the posts were coupled and keyed together. About fifty feet from the water we landed upon a platform, which was used as a place to store the oil, coal, water, and other stores required by the establishment. Iron cranes, arranged with iron cog wheels and chains, swung from this platform, and were used to raise the latter occupied by the keepers and visitors. Circular stairs led to the keeper's apartment. Two of the inmates were present, and we met with a most cordial welcome. Their room was about fourteen feet across. The windows in it were placed upon the south-western side, and the births where they slept were upon the opposite side of the room. They had a small cooking stove, a table, and four chairs. The ornaments to the sides of this singular dwelling were a spy-glass, a rule, some curious shells, and a number of birds which had been shot by the keepers, or been killed by contact with the light-house. The cooking utensils and crockery were also within sight.

From this room, by spiral stairs, we went up into the lantern. Here everything was kept in the most perfect order. The reflectors were of great brilliancy, and the whole appearance of the lights indicated that great care had always been taken of them. This lantern-room was too warm to be comfortable, as the heat from the lights had been retained by the metal frame work, and the plate glass in the sides was so well set that no air could enter the place except at the doors made for ventilation. From a lantern around the keepers' room, an hue inspection was made, that led to the top of the lantern. But few of our party ventured to ascend. I went up, and the scene was very fine. Our steamer lay at anchor below us, whilst at a distance Cape Ann could be distinctly seen at the North—Nahant and the islands of the outer harbor loomed up at the West—to the East the ocean was dotted with vessels, with their white sails shining in the sun, and Nantasket Beach, Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate, with their villages, and the numerous dwellings about the rude rocks and coves, were to be seen along the line of the South shore. While we were enjoying the scene, a steamer from Provincetown passed within half-a-mile of us—and was saluted and cheered by our party.

We returned to the room to listen to the yarns of our two boats. The oldest stated that eighteen years of his life had been passed in a light-house; that during a storm of the previous year, he remembered that the waves would lie in the rock, but the account of those who dared not land was such as to deter many from making the attempt. We stepped from the boat upon wrought

Selected Sketch.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

[The following sketch of the House of Lords, is a continuation of that of the House of Commons, published by us some weeks since. It is from Chambers's Edinburgh Journal:]

M. Vieuxtemps and Herr von Blunderbuss were punctual to their appointment—time, two o'clock, P. M.; place, by Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square—and we forthwith proceeded down Parliament Street.

"Does the House of Lords assemble so early?" asked Herr von Blunderbuss.

"Not often as a legislative body: it is now sitting in its judicial capacity only. The House of Peers is the final Court of Appeal from Chancery, and writs of error lie to it from the Courts of Queen's Bench in England and Ireland, and the Supreme Courts of Scotland."

"A miscellaneous kind of Cour de Cassation," remarked M. Vieuxtemps with quite a perceptible sneer. "An assemblage of bishops, admirals, generals, parvenu merchants, most constitute an admirable tribunal for deciding in the last resort vexed and intricate questions of law or equity."

"The House of Lords exercises higher judicial functions than your Cour de Cassation, and the certainly absurd theory of such a court of appellate jurisdiction is much modified in practice. It is true that every Peer who has subscribed the parliamentary roll has an undisputed right to attend and vote upon all judicial decisions, but the judgments in point of fact are invariably pronounced by the law Lords alone who have heard the arguments: by the Lord Chancellor for the time being—by his (Chancellor)s, Vice-Chancellors, and Judges who happen to be Peers.—Amongst others, at the present time, by Lord Lyndhurst, Brougham, Campbell, Denman, Cranworth."

"This merely voluntary relinquishment of the exercise of a right on the part of the mass of the Peerage," said Herr von Blunderbuss, "may answer very well in fair weather, when only ordinary questions of law are in dispute, but assuredly, sir, I should think, when doubtless and involving political questions are in the balance."

"It should seem so, but the fact is otherwise. This was proved on a somewhat recent and famous occasion. The late Mr. O'Connell was convicted of sedition, and fined and imprisoned by the Irish Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin. A writ of error, impugning the legality of the proceedings in that Court, was brought, and the judgment was reversed by the House of Lords—that is, by the votes of three law Lords, Cottenham, Denman, and Campbell, against two, those of Lyndhurst and Brougham. When the judgment was given there were many Peers in the House vehemently opposed to O'Connell, and who thought the judgment of the Court below ought to have been maintained. One Irish Peer called, 'How-gentered,' when the question was put by the Lord Chancellor, and rose to insist upon his strict right to divide the House; but the cries of 'Order, order!' which arose on all sides, compelled him to forego his intention; and judgment, the effect of which was the immediate liberation of O'Connell was pronounced. So entirely a thing of growth, of precedence, and habit, as I have before told you, is this constitution of checks and balances under which we live."

"A very illogical haphazard system it appears to me," said M. Vieuxtemps.

"Quite so: it is no more symmetrical than a gigantic rook."

"But, pray," persisted the systematizing French gentleman—"pray, how was it that the law or statute by virtue of which the Peers sit as a judicial body did not prescribe in terms the practice which the good sense of the Courts alone induces them to adopt?"

"For the very excellent reason that the House does not exercise judicial functions by virtue of any special law or statute. It is a jurisdiction purely founded on precedent, custom—a remnant of the all-embracing authority annexed by the House when it was the '*Magnum Consilium*' of the realm, and it would not even now bear much straining. The Lords had a narrow escape of losing this appellate jurisdiction of theirs at about the same time that the Commons, in the reign of Charles the Second, deprived them of their claim to 'original jurisdiction.'"

"Indeed! How did that happen?"

"In this manner: One Skinner sued the East India Company before the Peers for alleged wrong and oppression, and obtained five thousand pounds' damages against the Company, the plea in bar of jurisdiction having been overruled. The corporation appealed to the Commons, who reported, 'that the Lords, in taking cognizance of an original complaint, had acted illegally.'—The Peers, highly indignant, in their turn resolved, 'that the House of Commons, in considering the scandalous petition of the East India Company against the Lords' House of Parliament was a breach of their Lordships' privileges,' and following up their resolution by deeds, fined Sir Samuel Benardiston, Chairman of the Company, and Member of Parliament, five hundred pounds. He refused to pay, and the Lords committed him to prison."

"Bravo!" exclaimed M. Vieuxtemps. "That was acting with vigor and decision—ever the true secret of success."

"Perhaps so when the opposing forces are pretty equal in substantive power, but swelling little in either of the other estates of the realm in a contest with the Commons."

"Well, but what," said Herr von Blunderbuss, "they send a troop or cavalry to execute their decision by force?"

"Not they. But having resolved that to bring 'original' suits before the Peers was illegal, they directed the sergeant-at-arms to seize Skinner, and shut him up in Newgate for contempt of the Honorable House; and the ultimate result was the liberation of Barnardiston without payment of the fine, and the suppression of the original jurisdiction of the Lords; it being well understood that the Commons would send any and every body to Newgate, by warrant of Mr. Speaker, who should bring, or matter in bringing, an original suit before the Peers."

"Upon my word!" said Herr von Blunderbuss, "a very decisive mode of action, and, I doubt not, much more effectual in the long run than horse, foot, and artillery. But you were saying the Peers, about the same time, had a narrow escape of losing the appellate authority, the exercise of which we are about to witness."

"In 1675 their lordships, in proceedings in the appeal case of Shirley versus Sir John Fagg, committed members of Parliament to appear as respondents. This the Commons pronounced a breach of privilege, and the ever-ready sergeant-at-arms seized four counsel who had pleaded in the cause before the Peers, and committed them to Newgate for contempt."

"They did!" exclaimed M. Vieuxtemps; "but where was the King that he did not interfere to prevent an encroachment on an act of arbitrary power?"

"I am sure I cannot say; for aught I know—in the words of the nursery rhyme—

'The King was in his palace, counting out his money,'

but wherever his majesty might have been, neither the King, 'nor all the King's horses, and all the King's men,' could get a prisoner for 'contempt' out of the clutches of the Commons during their session. Even the writ of *habeas corpus* power in due to them; and were it not so, I do not well see how they could effectually exercise many of their highest functions—the impeachment, for instance, of great officers of state, and the supervision of the law courts, the judges of which they can compel to appear at the bar of the House to answer for neglect or corruption in the performance of their duties. The Lords, however, tried a fall with the Commons, and another illustration of the necessary result following a collision between the vessel of prerogate and that of trust was afforded. They directed the gentleman usher of the black rod, their executive officer, to liberate the four counsel: he did so. The sergeant-at-arms, by order of the Commons, retook them, and for better security lodged them in the Tower. The Lords armed their gentleman usher of the black rod with a writ empowering him to release the barristers by force from their new custody: the Lieutenant of the Tower applied to the House of Commons for instructions, and was ordered to retain the prisoners in defiance of any command to liberate them not issuing from themselves. The final upshot of these complicated disputes, which lasted over several years, was, as I have stated, the loss of the original jurisdiction of the Peers, and the permitted retention of the appellate functions, saving, of course, 'the undoubted privileges of the Commons.' But here we are in Bridges Street once more, and at the temporary entrance of their Lordships' new House."

"Shall we be admitted without orders?"

"There is no necessity for any orders when the House is sitting as a court of justice. By the way, if any of your friends should merely wish to see the interior of the House, they can do so on every Wednesday and Saturday, by application at the Lord Chamberlain's Office just below, on this same side of the way. Any decently-attired person can have a pass-paper by merely giving his address in writing. But let us in."

"Those eternal wigs again!" said M. Vieuxtemps *entre nous*, as we reached the space below the bar of the gilded gorgeous chamber.

"They are arguing-on appeal from a Chancery judgment to the House of Lords."

"But where is the House of Lords?" inquired Herr von Blunderbuss.

"These three gentlemen seated on the wool-let cushioned benches, are the House of Lords on this occasion. Three Peers suffice to make a House; and these being present, the House is complete."

"A curious House!" remarked M. Vieuxtemps, after having listened to and watched the proceedings for about a quarter of an hour. "One of the three Peers sitting in judgment upon the decree of a Lord Chancellor is busy with a newspaper; another is reading a letter; and the third, who alone appears to listen, every now and then stares up, yawns about the House with his hands in his pockets, and interrupts counsel in the strangest manner."

"The Peer reading the newspaper is a captain in the royal navy: he absorbed in the letter is a general officer; and the third is the law Lord, who is hearing and will decide this appeal. The two others have been caught, and enlisted merely to make a House, and will have no more really to do with the decision, than you or I."

"Look!" hastily whispered Herr von Blunderbuss; "the law Lord has shut out of the House by the red curtain pendent."

"No law retired for a short time only; and the proceedings are consequently suspended during his absence, you have leisure to look around and give me, slightly above your breath, your opinion of this dazzling Chamber."

"A splendid place certainly; but—" M. Vieuxtemps paused. "But what an overpowering glare of gilding and lavish ornament! The stained windows are powerless to shade or soften such a mass of gilded chains, gilded pillars, gilded galleries, gilded candelabra, gilded ceiling, red cushions, red carnation, red woolsack—for that enormous square ottoman in front of the Queen's Chair of State, with its coronets and crystals, is, I conclude, the woolsack—and, blue and gold color, in which predicate! It is certainly a very dazzling, glittering Chamber; but hardly suitable, it seems to me, for a hall in which legislative business is to be transacted."

"It is the Peers' House, you remember—the chamber in which Her Majesty meets and addresses the two Houses. The Commons' House will have little or no gilding; and, after all, it is solid oak which the glittering gold-leaf covers and enriches."

"Surely," said Herr von Blunderbuss, "this Chamber could not contain the British Peerage, between four and five hundred in number?"

"Certainly it would not seat them. The benches on each side, with red morocco cushions, will hold about two hundred and fifty; then there are the cross-benches in front of us; and the light, elegant, side-galleries. But it is very seldom indeed, that half the Peers are present. The custom in this House of voting by proxy, except in committee, tends of course greatly to diminish the average attendance."

"The chair on the right of the Queen's, is, I perceive by the triple plumes above it, intended for the Prince of Wales. Has His Royal Highness yet occupied it?"

"Not yet; but I daresay it will not be long before he takes part in the splendid pageantry of opening or prorogating Parliament."

"That must be a magnificent scene, and a very trying one, I should suppose, to a young female sovereign."

"Her Majesty appears in it to great advantage, enacting her part in the gorgeous ceremonial with admirable dignity and grace—a grace and dignity which heaven could not teach. Her reading of the speech is singularly fine, purely intonated, and clear, effective, and modest as a silver bell."

"The House is, I suppose, generally full upon such occasions?"

"Not by any means. Last spring I occupied a seat on the cross-benches, and had the opening of Parliament to myself. Even the Commons, who approach their Lordships uncovered, refused them this trifling gratification: the usher was struck out of the miscellaneous estimates, and the Peers obliged to forego their pictures."

"It did not require such an instance to convince me that your pretended sympathy is but a delusive democracy. Its plebeian limbs are concealed beneath ornamental robes, and its brazen brow veiled by a royal diadem," said M. Vieuxtemps.

"That, my dear sir, is a gross exaggeration, permit me to say; the aristocratic element is very powerful in this country, and the monarchical principle, as we understand and honor it, is confined not only over, but unbroken amidst the ruins of a year or two ago of falling thrones and dynasties."

"The royal assent is not always given to bills in the terms you have mentioned?" said Herr von Blunderbuss.

"No; there are three other forms. To an ordinary public bill the form is, 'Le Roine le veut' ('The Queen wills it.') To a private bill, 'Soit fait comme il est desire.' ('Let it be done as desired.') To a bill embodying a petition or declaration of a right, as in the case of Charles the First, the form is 'Soit droit fait comme il est desire' ('Let right be done as desired.')"

"I wonder," said M. Vieuxtemps, "these vestiges of Norman domination should be retained: they must tend to keep alive humiliating recollections."

"Humiliating recollections! Oliver Cromwell, to be sure, abolished them, and gave his assent to laws in plain English, but the old form came back with the Restoration; and here, by-the-bye, is the law Lord back again, and no matter of us has, I suppose, any overpowering desire to listen to further eloquence in the matter of this Gloucestery appeal, we had better adjourn to Bellamy's for the hour or so which will elapse before the Peers sit as legislators."

"Bellamy's! What is Bellamy's?" asked Herr von Blunderbuss.

"A highly respectable Italian restaurateur of with the House of Commons, and dominated in the same building: in other words, a very excellent hotel, in which members take dinners, who, youth, and vulgar fear long upwards, quite certain that the division-bell will summon them in time for the most important part of their duties: Bellamy's is also, I am happy to say, quiet to other persons, and being ourselves, who always keep to our proper, [illegible]."

After we had dined, it was time to return to the House of Lords. I had promised myself with Peers' orders, and we, consequently, the House being crowded, were soon in the Strangers' Gallery, very inconveniently situated behind that of the Reporters'.

"Ah! there is the Lord Chancellor on one the other day seated on the woolsack," said M. Vieuxtemps; "but who is that big-whigged gentleman on the ottoman chosen in front of him?"

"That is Mr. Baron Parke, canon, I suppose, to read a separate judgment of the Judges of the Common-Law Courts in cases referred to them by their lordships. It is so, hark?"

"Do the Peers always govern themselves by this opinion?" asked Herr von Blunderbuss.

"It is very rarely they do not. One exception was O'Connell's case, before mentioned, a great majority of the judges having pronounced the proceedings of the Irish Court to be perfectly legal. But the House Peers, however, dissented from that opinion. When the judges are out of one mind they attend and deliver their opinions seriatim."

"That is a bishop, I suppose," remarked M. Vieuxtemps, as the upper bench to the right of the Chancellor; but how is he to hear and enter his votes?"

"His lordship being the junior bishop, has retained to say prayers. As to voters, the bishops of the English Church do not vote in any Court on their oath—ponds and church-yards. That venerable-looking Peer on the same side of the House, who is presenting a petition, is the President of the Council—the most feeble the Marquis of Lansdowne. Nearly opposite to him you observe a Peer of remarkably more than fif

Miscellaneous.

LOUIS NAPOLEON.

A extract from the journal of a friend, a slight student of the personal appearance of the French Chief. It was made by the hand of a master upon the occasion, to which the writer refers.

At the fete of St. Cloud, I had a good opportunity of seeing Louis Napoleon. As it was the first time, it may be easily believed that I looked with all my eyes. He was about entering the Orangery, where the refreshment table was set out. On his right arm was the Ambassadress of Normandy. As he advanced through a crowded line, on either hand, he stopped awhile two or three times to shake hands with ladies whom he knew, and to speak a few words seemed to fame him a moment from his orbit.

I had become familiar, from busts and pictures, with the appearance of Louis Napoleon, and if I had met him anywhere I should have known him instantly, without a prompter. His general aspect, as the sauntering regiment him, is grave, square and heavy; but the living person admits of a minute and interesting study, as well as an account of his strange fortune to his present grandeur.

Louis Napoleon is a little under size—say five feet eight inches high—with rather broad and square shoulders, a somewhat thick neck, and a German rather than French head. His complexion and expression, his wide face, his ample brain, expanded at the sides and rather lowered at the forehead, all would have led me, had I seen him without knowing him, to say he was a German. His hair is dusky brown, but is worn very scanty, and parted in the middle; his dark grayish beard, almost covered by thick and folded eyelids, and shaded by heavy, feathy eyebrows. His movements are simple, natural and moderate, with a touch of dignity, which, in the mere effective, as it seems suggestive of something more behind it.

On the whole, Louis Napoleon might pass in the crowd as an ordinary man, unattributive at least, himself to be fame by fortune, consecrated to no high purpose or achievement by Providence. I looked intently at his countenance for some traces of Josephine, whose blood beat in his heart, but in vain. I looked again for the membrance of the great Napoleon, of those lineage he is, whose name he bears, whose empire he all but wields. It may be fancy, yet I thought I could perceive something of that ardour so impenetrable, so fathomless, so spiritual, which was characteristic of the Emperor. It is, however, slight, and has not the repulsive Arabic gloom which the blood and manner of Josephine the elevated consonance of the Corsican. On the contrary, Louis Napoleon's face is decidedly benevolent, his smile is pleasing, and the play of his features rather social and genial: yet there is a coldness and a tinge of mystery about him like that of a man isolated by disappointment, and little accustomed to hope: one who has realized the world by himself, not refusing sympathy, nor yet daringly to ask it; one who is accustomed to be looked on as a rid dle, and who, perhaps, on the world and, feels that fame not look dismissed, nor the contrary; neither happy nor unhappy; neither exalted nor depressed. His general expression is that of gentleness, self-possession, modesty, with an air of melancholy which irresistibly invites sympathy and begets favor—the more, perhaps, because of the hint of power and power with which he is surrounded, and which he seems to command.

I can very easily comprehend, now, the power which Louis Napoleon exercises over a considerable part of the people of France, in spite of the difficulties of his situation, and the many things, good or ill, which he has done, and which of necessity have often fallen with annoying emphasis upon the abiding interests of parties, classes and nations.

"The Panorama."—This term is not generally understood, but the New Orleans paper, which gives the definition, says, "It was familiarly used in the French and other languages, to designate part of a show of curiosities of all nations, during the last half of the seventeenth century, between the West India Islands and the north of Central America. The proposed and other words in English were necessary formal Dictionaries. The term was derived from the Spanish name of a light boat, a vessel then in common use in the West Indies."

☞ "The name of the rebelling city of New Bedford, *Acoaxet Bedfordia*, 'if Gideon fight,' is both witty and highly appropriate for a city, whose principal business was commonly known name." The name is a misnomer, in fact, considering the contraband quality of all the oil now a-days, we differ from it.

NAPOLEON IN EGYPT.

[illegible]

Thus in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-eight,
Napoleon was to conquer fate,
And thirty centuries were to look down
From the tops of the pyramids on his renown.

Napoleon was a little man,
But he had a mighty mind,
So he sailed away with his army so gay,
And left the shores behind.

Across the sea to Egypt's land,
To meet the coming foe,
Where the sphinx stands on the desert sand,
And the pyramids rise and grow.

Napoleon he was a little man,
And his nose was long and thin,
But his soldiers loved him through cold and storm,
Through hunger and want and sin.

Napoleon he was a little man,
But his enemies shook in their shoes,
When he stood on the deck of his warship, and said
To his host, "Now, fellows, cruise!"

Napoleon he was a little man,
But he had a wife at home,
Who loved him dearly, and wept for him nightly,
And wished he was safe at home.

Napoleon he was a little man,
And he fought the battle of Nile,
And conquered Egypt in less than a week—
Then rested himself awhile.

Napoleon he was a little man,
But he had a mighty will,
And he shook the earth with the tramp of his troops,
And he said, "I must conquer still."

Napoleon he was a little man,
But he conquered Italy,
And he sailed away to the Austrian coast,
And said, "Austria, I'll conquer thee."

Napoleon he was a little man,
But he had a noble heart,
And he gave his throne to Josephine's son,
When from life he had to part.

Napoleon he was a little man,
But he died on a lonely rock,
Where the sea-bird screams and the high waves dash,
And the cold winds sweep and mock.

Napoleon he was a little man,
But his name shall live in fame,
And his deeds shall fill the earth with renown,
To all succeeding years,
The greatest warrior that ever trod
Shook princes, the consul of any nation down;
And nations yet to be,
Sweeping down Time's dusky sea,
Shall speak their tribute to the name of great Napoleon!

The history of Louis Napoleon's dynasty is a singular one. Its birth was in a revolution, and it has been nursed by revolutions. Its father was a king, and its mother a queen, but it has never had a throne. Its uncle was an emperor, and its cousin is a prince, but it has never had a court. Its godfather was a pope, but it has never had a church. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a palace. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a kingdom. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a country. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a subject. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a friend. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a penny. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a home. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a crown. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a sceptre. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a sword. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a soldier. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a battle. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a victory. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a defeat. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a grave. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a shroud. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a mourner. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a tear. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a sigh. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a groan. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a death. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a corpse. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a coffin. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a tomb. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a resurrection. Its godfather was a king, but it has never had a heaven. Its godmother was a queen, but it has never had a hell.

Fashionable Intelligence.—Ladies are now wearing their dresses so short that they can't be seen

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1865.

SATURDAY EVENING POST
STEAM POWER BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
No. 66 Sansom Street Below Fourth,
Where Books, Pamphlets, Bound Bills, Way Bills, Circulars, Bill Heads, Cards, Labels, &c., &c., are printed with dispatch, in the neatest manner, and on the most reasonable terms.
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General News.

INEQUALITY OF REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

We take the following curious article upon the above subject, from the "Greenville (South Carolina) Patriot":

In South Carolina the Senate is composed of forty-five Senators. The white population of the State is two hundred and eighty-three thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven men, women and children. The following Parishes, St. Thomas's and St. Dennis, St. Helena, St. Andrew's, St. Stephen's, Christ Church, St. John's Colleton, St. Paul's, St. John's Berkley, St. James, St. Lukes, Prince William's, St. Peter's Gregorian, St. Bartholomew's, Prince Williamsburg, St. Bartholomew's, Orange, St. Matthew's, Barnwell, Edgefield and Kershaw Districts, have a white population of one hundred and fifty-seven thousand four hundred and seventy-three persons. This, in numbers, is about one-sixth of the white population of the State, and yet these Parishes and Districts have a majority of the members in the Senate of South Carolina. They have a majority in the House of Representatives, and have been in the habit for years of electing the Governor. This, in numbers, is about one-sixth of the white population of the State, and yet these Districts have the power to elect the Governor, three out of the four Presidential Electors, three out of the four Judges of the Court of Appeals, and the Judges of the Circuit Courts

Selected Poetry.

THE PICTURE OF SAPPHO.

[illegible]

Selected Articles.

NAPOLEON.

FROM LAMARTINE'S "GIRONDISTS."

The English edition of Lamartine's latest work has been issued in London. The Examiner remarks of it, that what M. de Lamartine himself said of his Girondists, in favor of his Restoration. The fifth of history is given to it for want of a better word in designating a narrative. The book has none of the pretensions of History. It is rather a picturesque study of the characters of certain groups of men, and of a certain period and early circumstances of the nations, events and passions which constitute history. It is a study, and a complete work. But it contains nothing profound, reveals no independence of judgment which was hardly to be expected from the immediate descendants of the nobles, still battered with revolvers, and certainly with cobwebs all—We find a fair account in the foreign papers:

NAPOLEON'S POLICY JUDGED.

He is taught republicanism, or rather France regenerated without him, and he travelled about, amidst the conquered country and his enraged provinces, the route to his first exile, his only recollection during the journey of his former popularity. What remains behind him of his long reign? for life is the criterion by which God and man judge the political genius of freedom. All tomb is foolish, all falsehood heroic. In policy, whatever does not succeed has no excuse. Life is judged by what survives it. He left freedom debased, equality compromised by pusillanimous humiliations, fraternity provided without ground to exist, because it was not free; oath, philosophy proscribed, populism encouraged, the human mind disfurnished, individuals individualized and concentrated in the pure existence alone, schools converted into barracks, the nation degraded by enervating, or brutified by baseness, national representation perverted, elections abolished, the arts enslaved, commerce destroyed, credit annihilated, navigation suppressed, the sources of national revenue dried up, agriculture ruined, or curtailed in its range, paying in blood or excess the restitution of an unexpected subsidy, but swearing with the great name of France the constitutions of the age, the miseries and degradation of the country.

This is the founder! This is the man!—a man instead of a revolution!—a man instead of an epoch!—a man instead of a country!—a man instead of a nation! Nothing of this! nothing! Napoleon has had his shadow, nothing more! He wrote the eighteenth century, church and consecrated it himself alone. Personal glory will be always spoken of as characterizing the age of Napoleon; but it will never merit the praise bestowed upon that of Augustus, of Charlemagne, and of Louis XIV. There is no age; there is only a name; and this name signifies nothing to humanity but himself.

Fame in institutions, for he extinguished; fame in policy, for he debased; fame in morals, for he corrupted; fame in civilization, for he oppressed; fame in military glory, for he lost it. He was only true to war; for he shed torrents of human blood. But what can we draw after him? His individual genius was great; but it was the genius of nonchalance. His intelligence was vast and clear, but it was the intelligence of calculation. He succeeded, he weighed, he measured; but he felt not; he loved not; he sympathized with none; he was a statue rather than a man. Cursed by his infancy to Abstraction and to Corsica; he has accumulated more the Manifest of the Archives. Four men have these been mentioned, and mumbled cold. All was solid, nothing gushed forth: in that mind nothing was renewed. His materiality nature was felt even in his style. He was, perhaps, the greatest writer of human events since Machiavel.

Much superior to Cæsar in the accent of his compatriots, his style is not the written expression alone; it is the action. Every sentence in his pages is, as it spoke, the counterpart and development of the fact. There is neither a letter, a sound, or a color wanted between the fact and the word, and the word is himself. His phrases contain, but shrink off with contempt, small those times when Bajazet and Charlemagne, not knowing how to write their names at the bottom of their imperial acts, dipped their hands in ink or blood, and applied them with all their nobleness impressed upon the parchment.

It was not the signature; it was the hand itself of the hero thus fixed eternally before the eyes; and such was the pages of his campaigns dictated by Napoleon—the very soul of movement, of action, and of combat.

This frame, which constituted his morality, his conscience, and his principle, he married, by his manners and his talents, from war and from glory; and he has covered with it the name of France. France, obliged to accept the odium of his tyranny and his crimes, should also accept his glory with a certain gratitude. She cannot separate her name from his, without incurring it; for it is equally associated with his greatness as with his decline. It is for her to repudiate and he has gained it by blood; but what she pathetically owes to him is the solemnity she has gained in the world.

We go back a little for a portrait of Napoleon, on the eve of his campaign of 1814, (but the most remarkable of his life)—sketched and true in some respects, but with all the most characteristic defects of Lamartine's style.

NAPOLEON IN 1814.

The empire had made him old before his time. Continual ambition, military pride, the delights of a palace, a luxurious table, a voluptuous couch, perfumed vestures, complicated intrigues, long civil, diplomatic, military labors, the hunt, and finally pleasure, the habit of command and of being obeyed, had given to his whole being that which made his empire—all loaded to burden his body and oppress his faculties.

An early obesity overloaded him with flesh.—His clothes, formerly stretched with muscles and hardened by the working of gesture, were broad, full, and overhanging like those of Otho in the Roman medals of the empire. An excess of life brought with the blood, gave a pallor like to that of wax to the cheeks, which were hollowed like a vase, and enriched like a purple of pale gold on his countenance. His lips still preserved their fleshless outline and steady power, passing easily from a smile to a menace.—His only body still formed an appropriate habitation for his genius. His mind was but a fire, like that of Napoleon, which consumed its envelope.

The physiognomy of Napoleon was not that of his race, or of his own. His look was profound, penetrating, and sometimes sinister. The habit of dissimulation, of reflection, of command, of power, had given to his countenance a character of gravity, of concentration, of thought, of severity, which was not natural to him. The mixture of the Italian and Corsican blood in his veins had given to his complexion a color of bronze, which the habit of passing whole days in the open air, under the sun of Egypt, of Italy, and of the North, had changed to a dark brown. The whole of his person, in fine, had the character of a man who has lived, thought, and acted much, and who has suffered. Napoleon was then in the full maturity of his genius and of his power; but he was already on the decline of his days. He had lived, and lived, too, during the most glorious and the most terrible days of the world. He had seen the ancient dynasties of Europe, which he had overthrown, reconstituted around him, and which he had come to consider as his natural allies. He had seen the people, whom he had given the signal to break their chains, bow their heads under the yoke of his own power. He had seen the blood of his own subjects, of his own soldiers, flow in torrents on the battle-fields of Europe, to defend his throne, and to maintain his dominion over the nations. He had seen the tears of widows and orphans, whom he had made, flow in his palaces and dishonor his glory. He had seen the cities of his own empire, Moscow, Smolensko, Leipsic, Dresden, Hamburg, Antwerp, Lubeck, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Turin, Florence, Rome, Naples, Madrid, Vienna, Berlin, Warsaw, Dantzic, Stettin, Magdeburg, Hanover, Cassel, Frankfort, Mayence, Cologne, Metz, Nancy, Strasbourg, Lyons, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Nantes, Rouen, Paris, Lisle, Brussels, Ghent, Amiens, Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Genoa, Venice, Milan, Verona, Mantua, Alessandria